

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

---

MAY 20, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. BACON, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2054.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2054) to correct the military record of Charles W. Reinhardt and to grant him an honorable discharge, having considered the same, would respectfully report the same back to the Senate, with the recommendation that it do pass with an amendment, to wit:

Strike out the word "War," in line 3, and insert in lieu thereof the words "the Navy."

The committee herewith submit to the Senate the report of the House Committee on Military Affairs recommending the passage of this bill in the House, and adopt the same as a part of this report.

---

[House Report No. 133, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2054) to correct the military record of Charles W. Reinhardt and to grant him an honorable discharge, having considered the same, would respectfully report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

This young man enlisted in the Marine Band. Afterwards all of his family died except his father, who desired the consolation of his only child in his old age, and he went home. Your committee think his leaving the service excusable.

The facts are fully set forth in the reports and affidavits hereto annexed.

---

[In the matter of House bill No. 4919, House of Representatives, for the relief of Charles W. Reinhardt.]

Charles F. Reinhardt, being duly sworn, on his oath says: That he is aged 63 years, and resides at Lafayette, Ind.; that he is the father of said Charles W. Reinhardt; that said Charles W. Reinhardt is his only child; that his brother and sister and mother died after his enlistment in the Navy, which left me alone, helpless, and heartbroken in my declining years; that I am much in need of his services and his company.

He is a good boy, my only hope; but being handicapped by reason of being a deserter at large, he can be of no service or comfort to me unless the charge of desertion can be removed, and he be permitted to again come home and give me aid and comfort the few short years I have to live; and I hope that you will be charitable to me; that you will restore to me my only living child, one who was my pride, and is now my only hope. His habits are good, and his record in the service was first class.

I went to considerable expense to educate him in music, and he enlisted without my consent. He was made to believe that he could be honorably discharged at any time he so desired.

CHAS. F. REINHARDT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of December, 1893.

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM C. MITCHELL, *Notary Public.*

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States:*

Whereas Charles W. Reinhardt, son of Charles Reinhardt, an old and well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Lafayette, Ind., did, on the 15th day of August, 1882, desert from the Marine Corps at Washington, D. C., and is still a deserter at large; and

Whereas the circumstances under which he enlisted in said Marine Corps on February 9, 1881, and deserted, at the time mentioned, are as follows, viz: He, said Charles W. Reinhardt, lived in Lafayette, Ind., from the time of his birth, in 1859, until 1878, when he left for Leipsic, Germany, to finish his musical education at the conservatory of music in that place. He remained there two years. On his return to the United States he met Mr. Sousa, the then director of the Marine Band, and finally enlisted, as aforesaid. After enlisting he wrote to his father, Charles Reinhardt, telling him what he had done. His father was much displeased and sharply reprimanded him for enlisting as a third-class musician on so small a salary, i. e., \$21 to \$24 per month. He replied that there was no opening except in the third class, and that Mr. Sousa assured him that the members of the Corps were earning from \$60 to \$125 per month extra from outside engagements. But shortly after his enlistment this source of income was cut off by an act of Congress prohibiting military bands from taking outside engagements. Being greatly disappointed at the turn things had taken, young Reinhardt became despondent and finally deserted, as stated above, and is now a deserter at large; and

Whereas since said Charles W. Reinhardt deserted from the Marine Corps his mother, brothers, and sisters have all died, leaving his father alone in his old age, except this one remaining son; and

Whereas said Charles W. Reinhardt, except his one act of desertion, has always borne a good reputation and had always been a good and useful citizen:

Therefore, considering the offender's youth, his former irreproachable character, the circumstances under which he entered and left the service, the yearning of his aged and lonely father to have his son with him in his declining years, and believing that to relieve this young man from the consequences of his one thoughtless act could work no harm to the service, we, the undersigned, respectfully pray this Congress for the passage of a special act relieving Charles W. Reinhardt from the charge of desertion.

IRA J. CHASE, *Governor of Indiana.*  
 CLAUDE MATTHEWS, *Secretary of State.*  
 DAVID P. VINTON, *Ex-Judge Circuit Court.*  
 JAMES MURDOCK.  
 FRANCIS JOHNSON.  
 B. MILN SMITH, *Postmaster.*  
 W. C. L. TAYLOR.  
 JNO. S. WILLIAMS.  
 B. LANGDON, *Judge of Circuit Court.*  
 JOHN F. McHUGH, *Senator Tippecanoe County,*  
*and City Attorney of Lafayette.*  
 GEO. T. BEARDSLEY, *City Treasurer.*  
 F. E. D. MCGINLEY, *Mayor.*  
 WILLIAM V. STUART.  
 J. M. DRESSER.  
 W. C. MITCHELL, *Ex-County Clerk.*  
 DAVID H. FLYNN, *County Clerk.*  
 J. FRANK BYERS, *County Auditor.*  
 JOHN M. LA RUE, *Ex-Judge Superior Court.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *Washington, August 27, 1892.*

SIR: The Department has considered the statement made by you in June last, addressed to the President of the United States, and by his direction referred to this Department, in which you request the pardon of Charles W. Reinhardt, a deserter from the United States Marine Corps.

In reply I have to inform you that it appears, from the record of service of Reinhardt, that he enlisted in the Marine Corps, at Washington, D. C., for five years, and was rated third-class musician, February 9, 1881; that he deserted from the Marine Barracks at that place August 15, 1882, and that he is still a deserter at large.

The Department is empowered to remove the charge of desertion only in cases coming under the provisions of the act of Congress "to relieve certain appointed or enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps from the charge of desertion," approved August 14, 1888, which applies only to deserters from enlistments during the late war, or when such charge is conclusively shown to have been erroneously entered or retained upon the records. It appearing that the charge of desertion was properly entered on the records of the Marine Corps against the name of Reinhardt, the Department has no power to remove said charge, and in view of the facts stated, no recommendation for pardon can properly be made in his case. An application might very properly be made to Congress by the friends of Reinhardt for the passage of a special act for his relief from the charge of desertion.

Very respectfully,

F. M. RAMSAY,  
*Acting Secretary of the Navy.*

MR. LOUIS KIMMEL,  
*United States Marshal's Office, Washington, D. C.*



